

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed April 30, 2008 in the above-identified application.

New claim 12 is added. Therefore, claims 1-12 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claim 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 11 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. Further, claim 3 is amended to conform it more closely to U.S. patent practice style. These amendments are fully supported by Applicants' disclosure, see, for example, Figs. 1, 5 and 6 of the Drawings.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 14, 2005.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification is objected to on the ground that on page 8 an instance of the reference numeral identifying the "deflecting pieces" should be corrected. The Specification is amended.

Objection to Claim 5

Claim 5 is objected to on the ground that the term "the ball" is redundant and should be deleted. Claim 5 is amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, alleging that in claim 1, the term "can" renders the claim recitation indefinite; in claim 6, the phrase "clear distance between the two free ends" is unclear; in claim 7, the term "the ball guiding surfaces" lack sufficient antecedent basis; and, in claim 10, the term "in particular" renders the following term "thermoplastic material" unclear.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 are amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Dolata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,555,770. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 requires a ball screw comprising a deflecting piece including a first partial deflecting piece and a second partial deflecting piece divided from the first partial deflecting

piece by a parting plane, the first partial deflecting piece being formed integrally connected with the second partial deflecting piece.

Without intending to limit the scope of the claims, according to an aspect of applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1, the deflecting piece of the ball screw is comprised of two partial deflecting pieces that may be formed captively connected to one another, for example, by a film hinge. Accordingly, a satisfactory alignment of the two partial deflecting pieces may be obtained prior to assembly, and the need for sophisticated sorting of matching partial deflecting pieces may be eliminated. Thus a streamlined production process may be achieved, as discussed, for example, at Specification, page 4, last paragraph.

Dolata discloses a ball nut and screw system (Dolata, Abstract) in which a radially extending ball groove or passageway 30 is formed in the portions 25a and 25b of the end closure 25 as a ball return passage which extends to nut surface 24 in an inclined radial direction from the internal trackway 16 (Dolata, column 3, lines 18-22).

Dolata does not disclose or suggest that the first partial deflecting piece is formed integrally connected with a second partial deflecting piece, as required by claim 1. For example, Dolata, Fig. 3 shows the ball return passage formed by the nut as having several different members. Accordingly, Dolata does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Brusasco, U.S. Patent No. 5,005,436. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 requires a ball screw comprising a deflecting piece comprising a first partial deflecting piece and a second partial deflecting piece divided from the first partial deflecting piece by a parting plane, the first partial deflecting piece being formed integrally connected with the second partial deflecting piece.

Brusasco discloses a recirculating ball screw-nut coupling defined by a cylindrical body with an internal helical groove (Brusasco, Abstract), the bodies 18 fitted together with respective surfaces 19 contacting each other, and pin 20 of each body 18 engaging hole 21 on the other so as to render the bodies 18 integral with each other and to form U-shaped fastener 12 (Brusasco,

column 3, lines 44-48; Figs. 5 and 13). Brusasco discloses that the contacting surfaces 19 each have U-shaped groove 32 with concave sides facing the nut screw 5 and define the recirculating channel 9 (Brusasco, column 4, lines 3-7). Brusasco does not disclose or suggest the first partial deflecting piece being formed integrally connected with the second partial deflecting piece, as required by claim 1.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Brusasco in view of Hoogland, U.S. Patent No. 7,178,311. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Hoogland does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Brusasco as they relate to a ball screw deflecting piece with the above-noted features, as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, since 11 depends from claim 1 it is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

New Claim

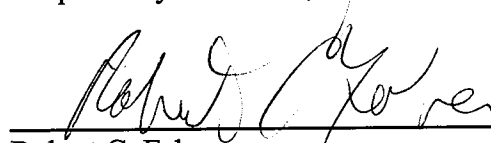
New Claim 12 is added so as more fully to claim patentable aspects of applicant's invention. New claim 12 is fully supported by Applicants' disclosure, see, for example, Figs. 1 and 3-6 of the Drawings.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the objections and the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
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Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700